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(54) **Earrings**

(57) An earring 1 comprises a wire 2 for insertion into a hole formed in an ear-lobe and a spring clamp member 3 for mounting on the wire 2.

The wire 2 may be of generally square cross-section. The spring clamp member 3 is formed with an aperture 4 of the same (in both size and shape) cross-section, but placed on edge, so that the aperture 4 is diamond-shaped. The leading end of the wire 2 is formed with a portion 5 of reduced cross-section.

The spring clamp member 3, which is of resilient material, comprises a pair of laterally-spaced, scroll-like portions 3b which serve as resilient jaws in gripping the wire 2.

The spring clamp member 3 is then pushed along the leading end of the wire 2 until the reduced portion 5 of the wire is disposed in the aperture 4 of the clamp member. The clamp member 3 is then rotated relative to the wire 2 so that these components assume the relative positions shown in Figure 1.

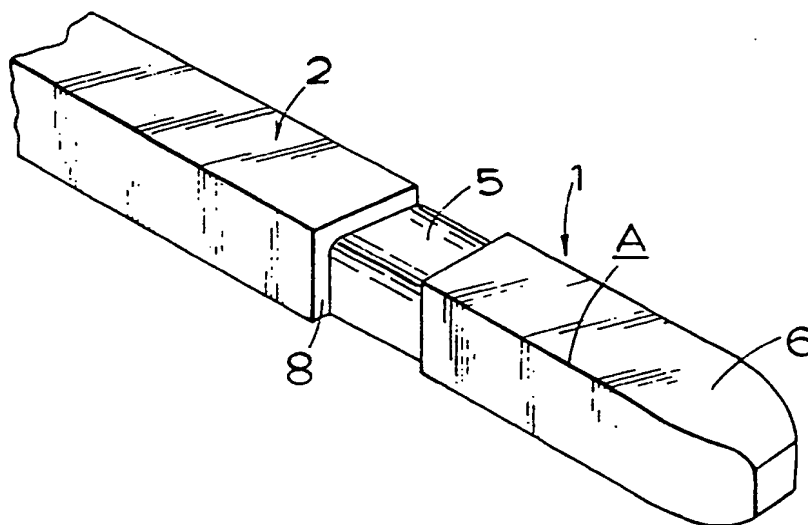


FIG. 1.

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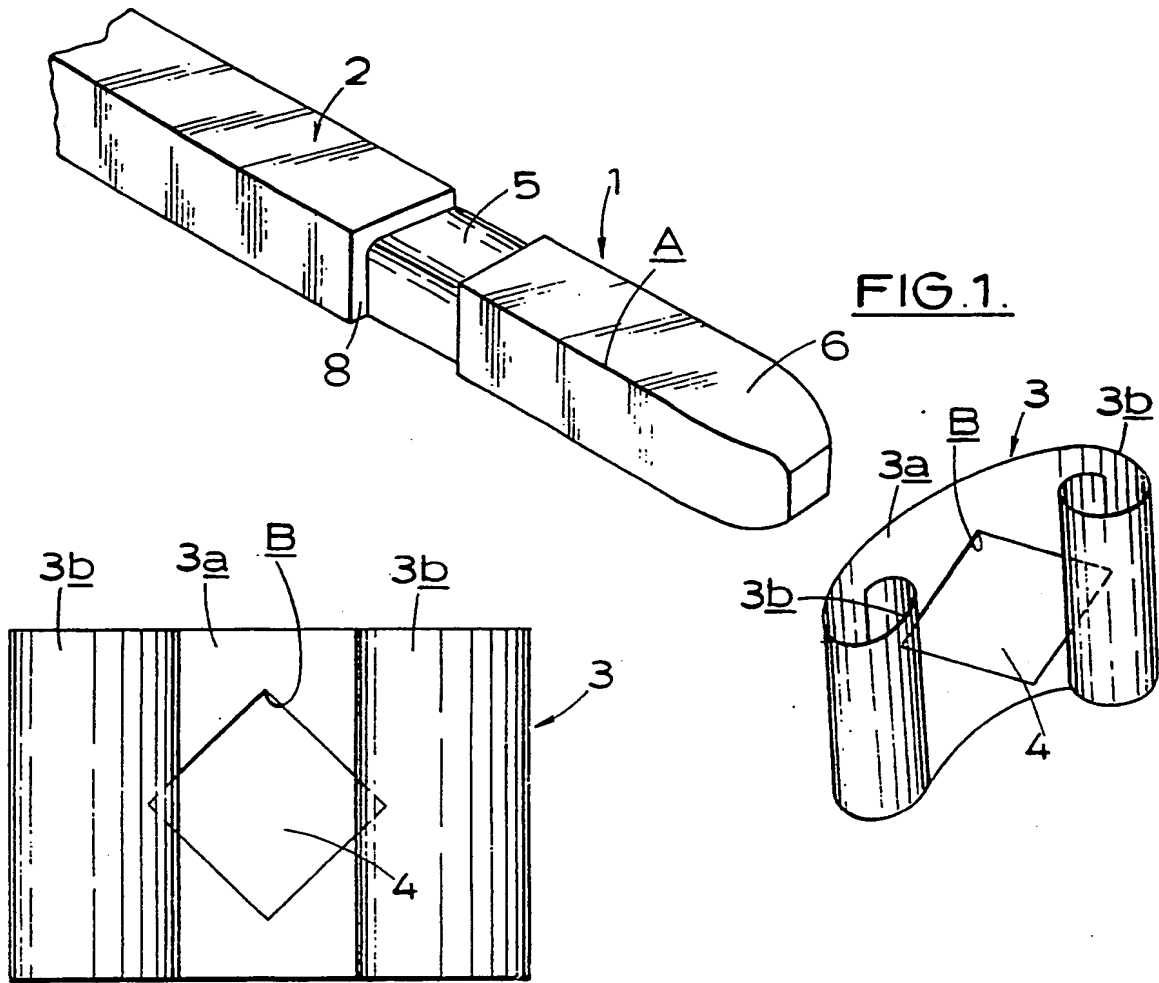


FIG. 2.

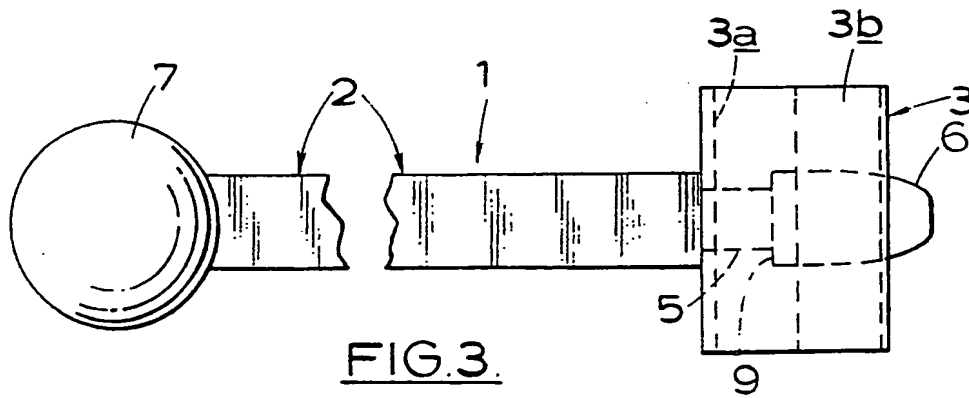


FIG. 3.

IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO EARRINGSBACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

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This invention relates to earrings and is concerned with earrings of the type comprising a wire for insertion through a hole formed in an ear-lobe and a clamp member (usually of butterfly-like form) for mounting on the wire.

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A particular problem exists with such earrings, namely that the frictional force between the spring clamp member and the wire is insufficient to prevent the clamp member coming away from the wire. Often this leads to loss of the earring.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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According to the present invention, an earring of the type comprising a wire for insertion through a hole formed in an ear-lobe and a clamp member for mounting on the wire is characterised in that:

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a) the wire is generally of non-circular cross-section,
b) the clamp member is formed with an aperture allowing insertion of the wire, and

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c) the wire is formed with a portion of reduced cross-section, so that when the wire is inserted into the aperture of the clamp member, whereby the reduced cross-section portion is disposed in the aperture of said clamp, relative rotation between the wire and the clamp member prevents the wire from being withdrawn from the clamp member.

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Preferably the wire is generally of square cross-section.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

An embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

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Figure 1 is an exploded fragmentary view in perspective which illustrates the clamp member and part of the wire of an earring according to the invention,

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Figure 2 is a front view of the clamp member, to an enlarged scale, and

Figure 3 is a fragmentary side view which illustrates the clamp member and the wire coupled together.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference to the figures, an earring 1 comprises a wire 2 for insertion into a hole formed in an ear-lobe and an ear-lobe spring clamp member 3 for mounting on the wire 2.

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The wire 2 is of generally square cross-section. The spring clamp member 3 is formed with an aperture 4 of the same (in both size and shape) cross-section, but here the square is placed on edge, so that the aperture 4 is diamond-shaped. The leading end of the wire 2 is formed with a portion 5 of reduced cross-section, generally square-shaped but with rounded corner and a tapered portion 6. As shown in Figure 1, reduced portion 5 and the non-leading end of the wire 2 together define a step 8. A step 9 is defined by the reduced portion 5 and the leading end of the wire 2 (see Figure 3).

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The non-leading end of the wire 2 carries, in this example, a spherically-shaped item 7 of jewellery (Figure 3 only)

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The spring clamp member 3, which is of resilient material, comprises a central or middle portion 3a flanked by a pair of laterally-spaced, scroll-like portions 3b which serve as resilient jaws in gripping the wire 2. The spring clamp member 3 is therefore of butterfly-like form.

In operation, with the wire 2 and the spring clamp member 3 separated, the wire 2 is inserted through the hole in the ear-lobe, to emerge on the opposite side of the lobe. The spring clamp member 3 and leading end of the wire 2 are then aligned whereby the wire can enter the aperture 4 in the clamp member. This necessitates twisting or partially rotating the clamp member 3 relative to the wire 2 so that, with reference to Figure 1, edge A of the wire 2 is aligned with corner B of the aperture 4.

The spring clamp member 3 is then pushed along the leading end of the wire 2 until the reduced or "necked" portion 5 of the wire is disposed in the aperture 4 of the clamp. The clamp member 3 is then rotated relative to the wire 2 so that these components assume the relative positions shown in Figure 1 (the reduced portion 5 is shaped and sized to allow this), the scroll-like portions 3b of the clamp member yielding to allow entry of the leading end of the wire 2.

With the portion 5 located by the aperture 4, the scroll-like portions 3b of the spring clamp member 3 grip the flats on the leading end of the wire 2 in a resilient manner, and the relative positions of the edge A of the wire and corner B of the clamp (now 90° to each other) prevent the clamp member from being withdrawn from the wire, at least not until edge A and corner B are re-aligned.

The wire 2 can be formed with any suitable non-circular cross-section, and the aperture 4 may be given any suitable shape which allows co-operation with the wire.

In a non-illustrated modification, the non-leading end of the wire 2 is substantially of the same cross-section as the portion 5. The reduced cross-section portion 5 then extends back to the item 7, and the step 8 no longer exists.

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The reduced cross-section portion 5 and/or the non-leading end of the wire 2 may possess shapes other than square. For example either or both may be of circular cross-section.

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CLAIMS

1. An earring of the type comprising a wire for insertion through a hole formed in an ear-lobe and a clamp member for mounting on the wire, characterised in that:
 - a) the wire is generally of non-circular cross-section,
 - b) the clamp member is formed with an aperture allowing insertion of the wire, and
 - c) the wire is formed with a portion of reduced cross-section, so that when the wire is inserted into the aperture of the clamp member, whereby the reduced cross-section portion is disposed in the aperture of said clamp, relative rotation between the wire and the clamp member prevents the wire from being withdrawn from the clamp member.
2. An earring as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the wire is generally of square cross-section.
3. An earring as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the reduced cross-section portion and the non-leading end of the wire are circular in shape.
4. An earring as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the aperture of the clamp member is generally square-shaped.
5. An earring as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the clamp member is of resilient material and comprises a central portion flanked by a pair of laterally-spaced portions which serve as resilient jaws in gripping the wire.
6. An earring as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the laterally-spaced portions of the clamp member comprise scroll-like portions.

7. An earring substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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